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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP, NEA/ELA, IO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/17/2018  
TAGS: [PREL](#) [LE](#) [AE](#)  
SUBJECT: LEBANON SPECIAL TRIBUNAL FUNDING

REF: A) STATE 4772, B) ABU DHABI 44

Classified by Ambassador Michele Sison, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Ambassador delivered ref A non-paper on funding for a special tribunal for Lebanon to UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed (AbZ) on January 17. AbZ reviewed the paper carefully and took note of the sums required for the tribunal. Without responding directly whether the UAE might contribute, AbZ noted that in January 7-8 discussions with Lebanese PM Siniora (ref B), the UAE had suggested that he try making up the deficit through fund raising among the Lebanese Diaspora, both as a way of assembling funds and as a show of popular Lebanese support for the tribunal.

¶2. (C) Comment: The UAEG remains very engaged on Lebanon and contributes several forms of assistance. It is unclear at this point how it might lend support -- monetary or moral -- to the tribunal, but this will continue to be a natural topic of conversation in Embassy's engagements with AbZ. End comment.

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